

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 13 to 18 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus having an envelope made of members inclusive of a first substrate and a second substrate disposed at a space being set therebetween, image forming means and spacers disposed in the envelope, the spacers maintaining the space, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a spacer having a desired shape by cutting a spacer base member; and

abutting the spacer upon the first substrate or second substrate at non-cut surface of the spacer.

2. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape forms a plurality of spacers having the desired shape from the spacer base member.

3. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape forms a conductive film on an end portion of the spacer base member corresponding

in position to abutting portion of the spacer base member upon the first substrate or second substrate, and cuts the spacer base member to form the spacer having the desired shape.

4. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape forms a conductive film on surfaces of the spacer base member, and cuts the spacer base member to form the spacer having the desired shape.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape includes a step of forming a first conductive film on surfaces of the spacer base member, a step of forming a second conductive film on opposite end portion of the spacer base member corresponding in position to abutting portion of the spacer base member upon the first substrate or second substrate, the second conductive film having a resistance lower than a resistance of the first conductive film, and a step of cutting the spacer base member formed with the first and second conductive films to form the spacer having the desired shape.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus having an envelope made of members inclusive of a first substrate and a second substrate disposed at a space being set therebetween, image forming means and spacers disposed in the envelope, the spacers maintaining the space, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a groove in a spacer base member and cutting the spacer base member along the groove to form a spacer having a desired shape; and
abutting the spacer upon the first substrate or second substrate at cut surface of the spacer.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape forms a plurality of spacers having the desired shape from the spacer base member.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape forms a conductive film on the groove of the spacer base member, and cuts the spacer base member along the groove to form the spacer having the desired shape.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape forms a conductive film on surfaces of the spacer base member formed with the groove, and cuts the spacer base member along the groove to form the spacer having the desired shape.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said step of forming a spacer having a desired shape includes a step of forming a first conductive film on surfaces of the spacer base

member formed with the groove, a step of forming a second conductive film on the groove, the second conductive film having a resistance lower than a resistance of the first conductive film, and a step of cutting the spacer base member along the groove to form the spacer having the desired shape.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the groove has a tapered shape.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus having an envelope made of members inclusive of a first substrate and a second substrate disposed at a space being set therebetween, image forming means and spacers disposed in the envelope, the spacers maintaining the space and each having a conductive film at an abutting portion upon the first or second substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

cutting a first spacer base member to form a second spacer base member;

immersing ~~[[an]]~~ a non-cut end portion of ~~[[a]]~~ the second spacer base member into solution containing conductive substances to transfer the solution to the non-cut end portion of the second spacer base member;

heating the conductive substances to form the conductive film; and

abutting the non-cut end portion of the second spacer base member formed with the conductive film upon the first or second substrate.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising the step of forming a conductive film on surfaces of the second spacer base member, the conductive film having a higher resistance than the previously-cited conductive film.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus having an envelope made of members inclusive of a first substrate and a second substrate disposed at a space being set therebetween, image forming means and spacers disposed in the envelope, the spacers maintaining the space and each having a conductive film at an abutting portion upon the first or second substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

heating and drawing a first spacer base member;

cutting the heated and drawn first spacer base member to form a second spacer base member;

immersing [[an]] a non-cut end portion of [[a]] the second spacer base member formed by heating/drawing into solution containing conductive substances to transfer the solution to the non-cut end portion of the second spacer base member;

heating the conductive substances to form the conductive film; and

abutting the non-cut end portion of the second spacer base member formed with the conductive film upon the first or second substrate.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising the step of forming a conductive film

on surfaces of the second spacer base member, the conductive film having a higher resistance than the previously-cited conductive film.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to anyone of claims [[1]] 13 to 16, wherein the first substrate is formed with electron emitting elements and the second substrate is formed with an image forming member for forming an image when electrons are applied from the electron emitting elements.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to any one of claims [[1]] 13 to 16, wherein the first substrate is formed with a plurality of electron emitting elements wired in a matrix form by a plurality of row and column wiring leads and the second substrate is formed with an acceleration electrode for accelerating electrons emitted from the electron emitting elements and a fluorescent member for emitting light when electrons are applied from the electron emitting elements.

19. (Original) A method of manufacturing an image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the spacer is abutted upon the row or column wiring lead and upon the acceleration electrode.